

Herculaneum Rolls.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO A

PROPOSITION

MADE BY

DR. SICKLER OF HILDBURGHAUSEN,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF

THEIR DEVELOPEMENT.

London :



PRINTED BY J. BARFIELD, WARDOUR-STREET,
PRINTER TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT.

1817.

THE ingenious Author of the Essay upon the HERCULANEUM ROLLS, having, by accident, learnt that another attempt was making at Paris, to give to the World the Contents of the Six Papiri now in the possession of the French Academy, conveyed to that learned Body a Copy of his Publication, which gave rise to the annexed Correspondence; and which is now submitted to the Consideration of those who feel an interest in Literary Pursuits.

London, February, 1817.

Herculaneum Rolls.

*Copy of a Letter addressed by SIR THOMAS TYRWHITT to
DR. SICKLER, dated Paris, December 24, 1816.*

SIR,

IT is with the greatest satisfaction that I have just received your Memoir,* upon the subject of the Herculaneum Manuscripts, addressed to the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences at Göttingen, and read at a meeting of that learned body the 9th of December, 1814.

I can assure you, Sir, that after the perusal of this Memoir, I feel my hopes, of seeing the contents of these volumes, considerably increased; and, under this impression, I take the liberty of addressing myself to you.

Mr. Hayter, who is doubtless known to you by reputation, and who has had much experience in the Neapolitan mode of developing these precious relics, is now here with a view to unrol the six Manuscripts given by His Majesty the King of Naples to Buonaparte; but, being obliged to make use of the ancient method, his progress, in spite of all his zeal, has not been more rapid, nor his success greater, than at Naples; and I am persuaded, that, as long as this system is persisted in, it will be impossible, as you have well observed, for human

* *Vide* Report upon this Memoir, page 22.

ingenuity to give the contents of these Manuscripts to the world. Under such circumstances, I shall feel myself highly obliged if you will have the goodness, with as little delay as possible, to inform me whether it would be consistent with your present avocations, to visit Paris for the purpose of undertaking the management of the Rolls which are here, and afterwards to proceed to England with a similar view? You will, perhaps, have the goodness, at the same time, to communicate to me your ideas upon the pecuniary recompense which you may expect; upon which, I am satisfied, there will be but little difference of opinion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS TYRWHITT.

P. S. If by chance you have made any ulterior experiments upon the Roll, of which you have sent an engraved column, and of which the subject is highly interesting, you will infinitely oblige me by sending an account of them, together with two or three copies of the *fac simile*.

*Copy of a Letter from DR. SICKLER, addressed to SIR THOMAS
TYRWHITT, dated Hildburghausen, January 3, 1817.*

SIR,

CONFORMABLY to the desire expressed in the letter which you have done me the honour to address to me, I take the earliest opportunity of forwarding to you my answer.

In the first place, Sir, I must request that you will accept the expression of my acknowledgments for having been pleased to direct your attention towards me, and for thinking me capable of undertaking and executing a work, which, up to the present moment, has almost uselessly occupied so many of our most enlightened scholars and experienced artists; and which has involved them in various perplexities without any beneficial result. If I have offered myself to the attention of the public as possessing some means to further these labours; I have had no other object in view than to render myself of use to the cause of literature, as well as to society in general.

A great number of experiments which I have made upon rolls of common paper gummed together and then carbonized, as well as others upon a real Herculaneum Roll, which had before been tried by the gentlemen at Naples without their having been able to separate even a single transversal line, have completely succeeded: these circumstances, combined with many observations upon the same subject made at Naples, enable me to assert, as a man of honour, that my mode of unrolling these precious remains of antiquity, appears to me to

be that alone calculated to produce to the world a knowledge of their contents.

In the enclosed paper, I have taken the liberty of speaking of my intentions; but, in this stage of our negociation, you will not, I am persuaded, in candour expect me to enter much into detail.

If the Rolls at Paris and in London have writing only on one side, as they are commonly found—If they are not lacerated, or torn in pieces, by any mechanical violence—If they have not been injured by the application of drugs, or chemical matter—If their writing has not been destroyed either by the action of fire, or by the effect of damp—Finally, if the obstacles which have hitherto presented themselves to their complete developement, are only those which have occurred at Naples up to this time, I undertake, Sir, to guarantee the complete success of my method.

Professor Millin, who is well acquainted with me, will, I am persuaded, have no hesitation in assuring you, that it has never been my practice either to commit myself, or to deceive those who have had the goodness to take an interest in me, or patronise my undertakings; and Messrs. Blumenbach and Herren, the distinguished Professors at Göttingen, are, among many others, ready to give the most satisfactory testimonials upon this point.

Respecting your kind invitation to Paris, and afterwards to England, with the view of unrolling the Papiri which are in those countries, I have profited by your advice, and have subjoined to my Prospectus, herewith enclosed, the Conditions upon which I should wish to enter upon the undertaking; and I should hope, Sir, that you will find them reasonable, and dictated by the nature of the circumstances of the case.

With regard to the copies of the *fac simile*, which you have requested me to transmit, I regret much that I cannot send them with this letter. The last of them I sent to Mr. Millin. My bookseller, Mr. Bertuch, of Weimar, has got the plate, and, therefore, if I had waited to send to him for some fresh impressions, my letter would have been delayed for ten days at least: however, as the post (the only one in the week) departs this day for Weimar, I have written to Mr. Bertuch to send you six copies of the *fac simile* to your address at Paris. I therefore hope, Sir, that these copies will reach you before your departure on the 20th instant: but, in case they should not arrive previously to your leaving Paris, I am sure Mr. Millin will permit you to take the copy which I presented to him. This *fac simile** contains only the half of a column of a Herculean Roll, the remaining part of which, as well as the other separated columns, were destroyed in my trunk during the journey.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SICKLER,

*Director of the Public School at Hildburghausen,
and Member of the Royal Society at
Göttingen, and of several others.*

* See Plate annexed.

PROSPECTUS and CONDITIONS for undertaking the Developement of the six Volumes, or *Herculaneum Rolls*, now at Paris, and also those at present in England, by the Undersigned, conformably to the desire expressed by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt.

PROSPECTUS.

I ENGAGE, that the *Herculaneum Manuscripts*, as unrolled by me, shall scarcely lose a particle of their fragile composition: that the pages adhering to each other, shall be separated without suffering the smallest damage: that the writing, which has not been effaced by the action of fire, shall be produced perfectly legible; and that the expedition and rapidity with which the developement shall take place, shall astonish those who are acquainted with the method hitherto practised at Naples, and who are able to appreciate the difficulties and the merit of the operation.

It appears to me to be perfectly practicable, that a Roll of eighty or one hundred columns, each column containing twenty-four or thirty lines, and each line ten or twelve words, may be unrolled in the space of five or six weeks.

As far as regards the material obstacles that have occurred up to the present moment, from observations made at Naples, and upon the method made use of there, as well as upon paper tightly rolled, gummed together and carbonized, as also from experiments made upon fragments of actual *Herculaneum Rolls*, I undertake to surmount them all: but the expedition with which the process is pursued, must depend entirely upon the work being followed up without interruption.

CONDITIONS.

I. As I am, at present, employed in the service of His Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe Hildburghausen, in quality of Counsellor in the Department of the Public Institutions, and Professor of the Ancient Languages, as well as Director of the School of this City; and as I am unable to absent myself either a year, or even a month, without having first obtained His Serene Highness's special permission, it will be necessary that the English Government, in whose name I take it for granted you treat with me, or some person of high distinction, should condescend to intercede for me, to obtain the requisite permission. My Prince having the greatest respect for the English Government, there is very little doubt of his acceding to the request; and of his still retaining me in his service: this matter may be easily arranged by a letter properly addressed to His Serene Highness.

II. Having obtained the permission of my Sovereign, and having reached Paris, at Easter, or thereabouts, according to circumstances, I should require six weeks, after my arrival, to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of the undertaking.

III. I take it for granted, that all the Herculeum Rolls at Paris, as well as in England, are in the same condition as they were when taken from the ruins of Herculeum, or the cabinets at Naples; that they have not undergone the smallest change either by the application of drugs or chemical matter; if they have, I must decline all

interference with them: and I shall expect a declaration to this effect from those persons who have been intrusted with their custody.

IV. I require that the commission which may be named for the examination of the result of my labours, after the developement of an entire Roll, shall engage not to disclose the secret of my invention, to any one in France, or elsewhere.

V. In case the British Government, and particularly His ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, as the first personage who has had the glory to patronise this undertaking, should desire to be possessed of my secret, and especially that part of it which regards my chemical solution, I am disposed to deliver it over to any person, named for that purpose, upon condition, that—

VI. As well for the developement of the six Rolls which are at present at Paris, as of those in England, and for the communication of my secret, there shall be paid to me the sum of three thousand pounds sterling: a moiety of which shall be payable the moment I shall have finished the developement of the two first Rolls, and the other moiety when I shall have completed the whole of my undertaking.

VII. That an annuity of one hundred pounds sterling shall be secured to me for my life.

VIII. That I may be permitted to add a short Latin preface, with some observations, as well as my name, to the two first editions of any work which I shall develop.

IX. That my travelling expenses in going to and returning

from Paris or London, and my expenses during my residence in those cities, as well as at Naples, should I be sent there, for myself, for my wife, (from whom I can never consent to separate myself,) and for my assistant, whose services are indispensable to me, shall be repaid me.

I should think that the journey from hence to Paris would cost two hundred pounds sterling, and that my return would cost as much; and, I should think, that my expenses of living at Paris would not exceed one hundred pounds per month.

X. Should my success in the complete developement of the Rolls at Paris not answer to my engagements, upon the principles of which I desire alone to be judged, I shall ask no other remuneration than the sum proposed for my journey to Paris, my residence in that city, and for my return to my own country.

Examined and signed by me,

DR. FREDERICK C. L. SICKLER,
Counsellor and Director in the service of His
Serene Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe
Hildburghausen, Corresponding Member of
the Royal Society of Sciences at Göttingen,
and of others.

Hildburghausen, 3d January, 1817.

*Copy of a Letter from DR. SICKLER to SIR THOMAS TYRWHITT,
dated Hildburghausen, 5th January, 1817.*

SIR,

I HAD the honour, two days since, according to your desire, of replying to your letter of the 24th of December; but, having written in a great hurry, I could only touch upon the essential points, such as my feeling a disposition to go to Paris, and afterwards to England, for the purpose of undertaking the developement of the Papiri, upon the condition that application should be made to my Sovereign for leave of absence, for a limited time, and that such recompense might be afforded me, as the discovery of the secret of my invention might seem to demand. Considering, however, that there may be other points at present upon which I should speak, I have thought it my duty to write you a second letter, before our correspondence may be interrupted by your quitting the continent. The zeal which you have manifested to further this enterprize, appears to me to be so well directed, that I should for ever reproach myself, were I not to expose to you every bearing of all the experiments which I have employed, during a series of many years past, for the accomplishment of my object. With this view, I take the liberty of transmitting to you my Dissertation, inserted in the German Journal, "*Curiositäten*," published at Weimar, by Mr. Bertuch, in 1815. In this Essay, I have alluded to my newly proposed plan, making known, however, only those parts of it which might tend to attract public curiosity, and draw the attention of men of learning, and of our German courts, to the situation of the Herculaneum Rolls, as well as to my views respecting them.

This attempt has not entirely failed of its effect; an official application would have been made to the Court of Naples, if your mission, Sir, under the protection of HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT of England, had not again attracted public notice. Our gazettes have informed us, that Mr. Hayter is arrived at Paris with new means for effectuating the development of these Rolls; and, therefore, it has here been judged discreet to wait the result of his labours.

But, Sir, being now called upon by you, in a manner so flattering to myself, to lend my assistance towards dissipating the difficulties in which Mr. Hayter must find himself, it is but just, on my part, to detail to you every circumstance, in my power respecting this subject.

If you condescend to read through my Dissertation, you will perceive that I have not detailed all that I might have said: but by the Report of the Royal Society at Göttingen, upon my Essay, as well as upon my *Exposé* annexed, you will observe, that the gentlemen composing the commission of that Society, were made perfectly acquainted with my process. This mode of proceeding appeared to me to be preferable to any other means of public attestation, inasmuch as the latter might be thought to hold out much more than was likely to be realized. You will also observe, that in no part of the said Report is there any mention of my having made experiments upon a real Herculeum Roll; although that Society was actually in possession of the fragment from which the *fac simile* was made at Weimar. I now, Sir, communicate to you this fact, requesting you, at the same time, to write to Mr. Blumenbach, Secretary of the Royal Society, or to Mr. Herren, at Göttingen, and to put the question to either of them—*Was the original fragment, from which the fac simile was taken, in their possession, or not?* At Weimar, the copiest made some faults, which I have endeavoured to correct in

the copy sent to Mr. Millin: the original I keep to myself, and cannot allow it to be inspected without discovering the greater part of my secret; to which Professor Blumenbach, in a letter, which I have the honour of inclosing to you, alludes. This letter* I take the liberty to request you will return to me, either from Paris, or London; as any use which might be made of it may be disagreeable to Mr. Blumenbach, or prejudicial to myself.

In my Dissertation, I have made honourable mention of the zeal of the British Government, and of Mr. Hayter. In the annotations there is, from page 12 to 14, a description of the attempts made by several of the English mission for the developement and attainment of the contents of the Herculanæum Manuscripts. It is extracted from the Editor of the Journal of the "*Morgen Blatt*," as you will perceive, and, therefore, is not from me. It is perfectly true, however, that much discontent was manifested at Naples; but, well aware of the difficulties with which the undertaking had to contend, I could not myself but duly appreciate the zeal and the merit of those who have preceded me.

I have just received a letter from our celebrated antiquary, Mr. Boettiger, of Dresden, with an extract of a letter from the Marquis Hausmann, at Palermo, to whom he addressed a *fac simile* of my fragment: his answer has been highly favourable and encouraging to me. The Marquis Hausmann is held in high consideration at the Neapolitan Court, and he has sent the copy of my fragment to the Minister, Tommasi, at Naples. It is not improbable, therefore, that after completing my work in England and at Paris, I may, aided by this powerful recommendation, and accompanied by English gentlemen

* The letter here alluded to, appeared to be perfectly satisfactory, and was, from motives of delicacy, returned to Dr. Sickler from Paris.

well skilled in the Greek language, be able to complete the undertaking begun by Mr. Hayter fifteen years ago, and to continue my labours in that capital until the whole contents of these treasures of literature are laid open to the world.

. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

SICKLER.

P.S. To-morrow, or the day after for certain, six copies of the *fac simile* will be sent to you by Mr. Bertuch, the bookseller at Weimar, who has got the plate. The courier, reaching Paris in ten days at latest, will enable you to receive them before your departure for England.

*Copy of a Letter addressed to SIR THOMAS TYRWHITT, by
Professor MILLIN, Keeper of the Cabinet of Medals,
Cameos, and Antiques, in the Royal Library at Paris,
Member of the Institute, and Knight of the Royal Order
of the Legion of Honour, dated Paris, January 18, 1817.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter respecting Dr. Sickler, of whom you have requested me to give you some particulars.

With respect to his discovery, I can assert nothing as from myself, and I apprehend, upon that point, you are in possession of all the details which you can desire: the testimonials of Messrs. Herren and Blumenbach, are of the highest consideration, and these are all in his favour. There is, therefore, every reason to presume, that Dr. Sickler has made an important discovery. As to myself, I am firmly of that opinion; but, not having witnessed his operations, I cannot undertake to make any positive assertion respecting it.

I can, however, venture to certify, as from myself, that, though it might not be impossible for Dr. Sickler to have imposed upon himself, (but which I cannot think very probable,) I think he is incapable of wilfully imposing upon any other person. I have known him for these twenty years past, and I have always found him a person passionately fond of literature, of the highest probity, and of the most honourable character. He is the son of a very respectable minister, who attached himself much to horticultural inquiries, and who has published a very interesting journal upon that subject.

He directed the attention of his son to the same study, and the latter, adding to it a knowledge which he had acquired of history and antiquities, has edited a very curious work, entitled "*Histoire generale de la Culture des Arbres a Fruits*," 1802, 8vo. Of this branch of agriculture, he gives an historical detail from the most ancient times, and follows its pursuit through the history of the migrations of several nations and of their colonizations. To this work is annexed, corresponding charts, which considerably enhance the interest of the whole.

Dr. Sickler, arriving at Paris, was, like many other young persons of learning of his country, introduced to me, and I soon found him a situation in the house of Monsieur Delessert, a rich banker, whose very name is a sufficient eulogium upon his personal merit. He undertook the education of a young gentleman of the family, who all retain for him an unalterable regard. During his residence at Paris, Dr. Sickler devoted himself to the study of the arts, and published a small work, in German, entitled "The History of the Removal of the Works of Art," 1803, 8vo. in which he traces their removal from one country to another, from remote ages down to the present time, and has subjoined to it appropriate chronological tables: upon this work, however, I ought not to bestow any further commendation, since Dr. Sickler did me the honour to dedicate it to me.

In quitting the family to which I allude, Dr. Sickler returned to Gotha, and from thence, as I have informed you, he went to Rome, where he lived very economically, and published a Map of the Antiquities of the "Campagna di Roma," under the title of "l'Almanac de Rome," in two most interesting volumes. With the remainder of his history you are acquainted.

By this sketch of the life of Doctor Sickler, you will perceive that he is an ardent lover of literature and of the arts,

and that it is principally with this view, and in order to obtain a knowledge of what they contain, (and not from any sort of speculation,) he has entered into the subject of the *Herculeum Manuscripts*. He has a great knowledge of antiquity, and is a good Grecian, and therefore cannot be considered in the light of a mere mechanical operator.—He is a man of high honour, and is, I am persuaded, incapable of imposition, or of any premeditated deception.

I have thought it right to give you this long explanation upon the character and merits of Dr. Sickler, since it may possibly enable you the better to appreciate what he has said upon the importance of his discovery, the subject of which is of sufficient weight to require it to be thoroughly canvassed; inasmuch as it would grieve me, were so illustrious a character as the *PRINCE REGENT* of England, who has demonstrated to the world such an ardent zeal for literature and the arts, as well as a nation so generous as your own, to be subjected to fraud or imposition.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. L. MILLIN.

*Copy of a Letter from SIR THOMAS TYRWHITT to DR. SICKLER,
dated Paris, January 19, 1817.*

DEAR SIR,

I BEG you to accept of my best thanks for the promptitude with which you have replied to my letter; and I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have this day received the *fac similes* from Mr. Bertuch, as well as two copies of your interesting work published in the "*Curiositäten*."

Respecting your questions as to the present state of the Rolls, I can answer affirmatively to them all—they are precisely in the same state as they were at Naples.

It is impossible for me, as you may easily imagine, to give you, at this moment, any decisive answer to your other propositions; but I can assure you, that, with the exception of one or two of them, which I think will admit of some modification, and which, perhaps, our mutual friend, Mr. Millin, will hint to you, they will have my support when I lay them before HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, who, as you well know, has been, for many years past, the zealous patron of this undertaking. I shall not fail to let you know the result of my communication.

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you at your leisure; and I remain, with much esteem, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS TYRWHITT.

REPORT.

SITTING OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS,
NOVEMBER 9, 1814.

At a full meeting of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, held at Göttingen, November 9, 1814, Mr. Herren presented to the Society an Essay by Doctor Sickler, on an improved method of unrolling the Herculaneum Manuscripts; a very interesting subject, and of high importance to classical learning. Dr. Sickler, who is Director of an Academy at Hildburghausen, and who is well known by several archæological works, in high estimation, expressed a desire that his new invention should be submitted to the most minute investigation; and for this purpose, not esteeming it discreet, in justice to himself, at present, to disclose his mode of proceeding, requested that the Royal Society would appoint a Committee, to which should be submitted the experiments the Doctor had made upon carbonized paper. The President, Mr. Oslander, appointed for that purpose Messrs. Blumenbach, Hausman, and Herren, and the Report of this Committee was made by the last of these gentlemen, Mr. Herren.

It is necessary to premise, that Dr. Sickler was six years in Italy; during this interval, three times at Naples; and from

his acquaintance and friends in that town, he had more than ordinary means of becoming perfectly acquainted with the process at that time in use, to be sensible of its faults, and at the same time, to convince himself of the superiority of his own invention.

The number of Manuscripts which have been recovered from Herculaneum, and which remain at present unrolled, or only in part, amount to 1,400. These Rolls are for the most part of equal length, though not of equal thickness, and, consequently, their contents are more or less voluminous. Very hasty conjectures have been formed upon their contents, but which have been refuted by the fact. It can be no longer matter of doubt, that they contain writings upon different subjects, as well in Greek as in Latin—in verse as well as prose; as a treatise has already been found upon Music; a work of *Epicurus*, upon Nature; a Latin poem; and fragments of works upon Geography, and upon Natural History; and though at this moment, we cannot judge with any precision of the further contents of these Rolls, there is the strongest reason for thinking they are a treasure, in which is hidden, what would prove of the greatest importance to classical learning: and therefore the hope of finding the comedies of *Menander*, or the lost books *Polybius*, cannot be called chimerical.

The discovery of these Manuscripts, naturally excited expectations of this kind; but the task of unrolling them appeared an undertaking of no ordinary difficulty.

When Herculaneum was overwhelmed (79. J. C.) by the eruption of Vesuvius, the room in which these Manuscripts lay, though it remained untouched, was completely covered with a thick layer of ashes, over which had flowed a stream of lava. The Papiri, subjected to this kind of heat, were not burnt, though they became carbonized. On the first discovery of them, they were taken for any thing but writings, and narrowly

escaped being flung away as mere coals. As soon, however, as they were known to be writings, they attracted no small attention, particularly after the observations which the immortal Winkelman had made upon them. Antonio Piaggi, a Genoese monk, suggested at that time a mode and a machine for unrolling them: and with this machine, the operation commenced; but it is well known, that the expectations which were then formed of it, have by no means answered: the process has been described by Winkelman, and others. It consists in applying small pieces of gold-beater's skin, when lightly gummed, upon the back surface of the Roll, to which silken threads are fastened, and which, by the help of the machinery, gently raise the surface so lined. This machine consumes in the first place, so much time, that a whole month was sometimes necessary to unrol a single column; besides this inconvenience, it was scarcely possible to avoid making rents and holes, thereby rendering it necessary to supply the text by conjecture: and lastly, it is quite out of the question, as experience has shown us, that this mode of proceeding can ever get at the contents of the more bulky Rolls,* the chief

* In a publication, entitled "*Curiositäten*," volume iv. part 1, 1815, Dr. Sickler makes the following observations, (page 17,) with reference to this point:

"But, perhaps, it may be asked, Upon what grounds can it be presumed that the large Rolls do actually contain works of a greater and more valuable description? Suppose they should prove to be unimportant, and yield an inadequate compensation for the great trouble, expense, and time, bestowed upon them? These are, undoubtedly, questions of weight; but which every antiquarian can answer with satisfaction to himself, and they may be here solved to the perfect conviction of the friends of literature.

"Can it be presumed, that the ancients would have written works, of trivial import to themselves, as well as to posterity, upon large, and consequently, expensive Rolls? I believe I may safely assert, that such would certainly not have been the case. From the state of our own literature in printed books, where a book often becomes the less profitable in proportion to its

object in view. A new hope at length arose by the interposition of HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT, who, from his known protection of the arts and literature, interested himself in their behalf, and sent a gentleman of extensive classical learning and knowledge, Mr. Hayter, to Naples. The success attending this mission has not yet reached the knowledge of the world; but, adds Dr. Sickler, no human labours can ever attain the wished-for object, as long as the present process is continued in use: though up to this moment, no other has supplied its place.

To entitle an improved process to any claim of perfection, it should embrace the following points:—In the first place, the discovery of any liquid preparation, which when applied to the

thickness, (though rags, and printers'-ink, and *devils* enough are at our service,) let it not be inferred, that the state of things was similar in the time of the ancients, at least antecedently to the period of the Emperor *Titus Vespasian*, in whose reign *Herculaneum* was destroyed. The preparation of the large Rolls, from the papyrus plant, was a very expensive process, as it was necessary to bestow upon them much more time and care than upon the smaller ones.

"The *Herculaneum* Rolls were all prepared from the papyrus, called *nilotica*; and it has been ascertained, by the successful experiments of the Chevalier *Landolina*, at *Syracuse*, that large leaves for folio volumes, (and consequently the more so those which were used for large and long extended Rolls,) could only be made with the pithy leaves growing near the stem, and on that account were not so easily dried. The material, therefore, being difficult to prepare, the large Rolls became more expensive. Inasmuch also, as book-making, and the establishment of a library, were by no means so common or frequent among the ancients as with us, it is easily to be conceived, that the large volumes would rarely not have been appropriated to the conservation of unimportant writings.

"Let it suffice to observe, that, though it cannot be mathematically demonstrated, that every large *Herculaneum* Manuscript must contain an equally important work; yet, in all probability, none of them would yield any thing entirely unworthy of notice. It may rather be safely concluded, that, among the many large Rolls, there are some which contain most important literary treasures."

outside of the Manuscript, might completely penetrate the whole, without damaging it, and without causing it to dry too quickly, render it unfit for future operation. Secondly, a further discovery of some substance, which might line the outer side of the Roll, without any risk of lacerating it. And lastly, by such alterations in the machine at present in use, as might facilitate its progress in point of time.

These are the points Dr. Sickler flatters himself he has attained; and as proofs in support of his pretensions, has favoured the Society with the result of experiments upon rolls of paper carbonized by himself, and which he has lined in the manner above described.

The Report given by the Committee upon Dr. Sickler's Memorial is as follows :—

“The mode of unrolling the carbonized Manuscripts of Herculaneum, as proposed by Dr. Sickler, differs materially from that which has hitherto been used, and appears to us, to unite the necessary requisites to put them in form to be read with less difficulty, and considerably to hasten the operation in point of time. The mixture used by Dr. Sickler, is of that quality as to agree full as well with the interior of the Roll, as the other preparation which is applied to line it. It dries slowly, which affords the advantage of not being compelled to adopt any extraordinary precipitancy; and if by accident any bit of an under page should stick to that already lined, it may be easily separated. The substance which receives the Manuscripts is of so supple and pliable a nature that it can be equally applied to the Rolls indented and crooked, at the same time affording them a sufficient consistency for the operation of developement. The machine proposed, is very simple, and has the important advantage of permitting the work to proceed with the most perfect order, and without any danger of injuring the carbonized substance.